

## Transcribed Excerpts from Part II: "Some Account of the Achievements of the Celebrated Virginian Hero, George Rogers Clark, in the Western Country," March 30, 1816

**Some account of the achievement of the celebrated Virginian hero, George Rogers Clarke, in the Western Country 1778-9**

*[CONCLUDED FROM OUR LAST]*

A tempest, however, was hanging over [George Rogers Clarke], which perhaps, no efforts but his could have dispelled. The governor of Detroit, Hamilton, a man no less remarkable for his boldness and activity, than for his barbarous disposition, and his tyrannical abuse of delegated power, formed the daring project of driving Clarke from his conquest.

On the 15th of Dec. with a strong body of men, he took possession of Fort St Vincent - repaired its ruined battlements - and converted it into a formidable repository of warlike implements of every description. His plan was to attack Kaskaskias in the spring This place he considered as an easy conquest . . . In no resource connected with the success of his plan, was Hamilton deficient... Destruction hovered on the Western borders of the commonwealth- Clarke received no reinforcements... Under these circumstances, Clarke thought it prudent to concentrate his small force... Clarke despaired of his ability to keep possession of the country - Still, he was resolved to maintain a siege, and preserve, at least, the post of Kaskaskias, or die in the attempt...

To this end, he and his gallant associates were making active preparations- strengthening the fortifications of the place - erecting or demolishing, as necessity dictated. - Whilst they were thus employed, a Spanish merchant, who had been at fort St. Vincent, arrived. He informed Col. Clarke that Hamilton had weakened himself... This information was for the genius of Clarke, a flash of electric light. It discovered to him, not only safety, but new glory. He saw the whole by intuition. - Hamilton must be attacked before he could collect his Indians - There was no other means of saving the country -

With Clarke, to resolved and execute required but a moment... he himself marched across the country, with one hundred and fifty gallant comrades, on whose devotion, intrepidity and perseverance, he could well rely... his band was small and unincumbered (sic) with heavy baggage, such was the inclemency of the season, and such the difficulty of the route, that he slowly advanced, not without apprehensions of the ultimate failue (sic). When within three leagues of the enemy, it took this Spartan band five days to cross the drowned lands of the Wabash- having to wade, often upwards of two leagues, to their breast in water . . . On the evening of the 23d, they reached the dry land, unperceived by the enemy, yet having themselves a sufficient view of the fort. - No time was to be wasted - no deliberation to precede the long mediated blow- at seven o'clock, the attack was made, before the enemy knew any thing (sic) of

the assailants. The town immediately surrendered with joy, and assisted in the siege of the fort. For 18 hours, a continual fire was kept up on both sides. Col Clarke... poured into their posts such a shower of well directed balls, that he silenced, in 15 minutes, two pieces of cannon, without having one of his men killed or even wounded. As his numbers were small, he took every possible precaution to prevent a waste of lives - On the following day, Governor Hamilton demanded a parley; and intimated an intention to surrender - difficulties arose -but in the evening, the terms of the surrender were arranged. The Governor and the garrison became prisoners of war; and considerable stores fell into the hands of the conqueror...

The above narrative, though it contains some of the most important operations of the gallant Geo: Rogers Clarke, falls far short of the full extent of his exploits for the aggrandisement of Virginia, in territory and in fame. We have recorded these exploits in a work, which soon will be submitted to the public eye, and gratify, we trust, the laudable curiosity of Virginians in respect of the Western Hannibal.